



Small really is beautiful in dementia care

Devon is blessed with many excellent care homes and while the trend over the past years has been for larger care homes, Rose Lodge has taken the opposite view

Rose Lodge provides two small communities (about 16 people in each) for people living with dementia, and there are several very good reasons for this. It can be quite distressing for people with early dementia to be with people at the later stages and we have found that in general people with dementia are happiest when they are in a community with other people at a similar stage.

Smaller communities reduce the number of relationships that residents have to navigate, and they just feel more homely. Also the needs of people with early dementia are quite distinct from those of people with the later

stages of dementia. By having separate communities Rose Lodge are able to customise the design of the communal spaces and bedrooms, the care, and the activity programmes to those specific needs. So while people in the Cottage (their community for people with early dementia) enjoy activities such as going for long walks, or regular skittle competitions at a local social club, the people in the Lodge (their community for people with later stages of dementia) generally enjoy more gentle and sensory activities such as live music, gentle exercise, and pampering sessions in their salon. The decor of the two communities follow an identical style and this eases the

transition in case of people moving on from the Cottage to the Lodge. Does it work? Well the residents and their relatives certainly think so. This year they voted Rose Lodge into the top 20 small care home groups in the UK at carehome.co.uk which is the UK's leading independent care home advisor. This award has come on top of their CQC Outstanding rating and a Gold award from Stirling University for dementia design. ♦



dSDC
Dementia Services
Development Centre

Gold Award



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